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Lunesdale Rural District Council

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

for the Year

**1952**



Lunesdale Rural District Council.

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of the  
Sanitary Inspector  
and  
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Lunesdale Rural District Council

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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
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1952



# LUNESDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# Lunesdale Rural District Council

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## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1952.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Lunesdale Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952 on the Health and Sanitary conditions in your District. I took up my duties as Medical Officer of Health for Lunesdale Rural District in July, 1952, in succession to Dr. J. A. Tomb.

The form and content of the report are in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health, but some alterations have been made in the manner of presentation, the subject matter having been grouped into separate sections.

The population of the district is 7,282, a slight fall of 69 on the previous year's estimate.

There were 133 births during the year, 12 more than in 1951, giving a birth rate of 18.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population, this rate being the highest since 1948. The adjusted birth rate (i.e. adjusted to allow for differences in sex and age distribution of the population) was 20.1 per 1,000 in comparison with a figure of 15.3 for England and Wales as a whole.

No maternal deaths due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion have occurred during the past 8 years, but this favourable record was interrupted in 1952 when unfortunately one mother died as a result of complications following childbirth.

Two babies out of the 133 born alive failed to survive to their first birthday, equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 15 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 27.6.

Deaths from all causes totalled 71, being 30 less than the previous year, giving a crude death rate of 9.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 13.9 in 1951. The adjusted death rate for Lunesdale was 9.0, which may be compared with the 1952 death rate for England and Wales of 11.3.

During the year under review there was no undue prevalence of infectious disease. Once again more cases of Whooping Cough were notified than of Scarlet Fever or Measles, and for the third year in succession no Diphtheria occurred. Because of the dramatic decline in mortality from Diphtheria in recent years Whooping Cough has now become relatively more important, and is regarded as the most serious and debilitating infectious disease of childhood. The efficacy of Whooping Cough vaccine has recently been more strongly substantiated and it is to be hoped that the Ministry of Health will issue official recommendations about its use at an early date. Attention is drawn in the body of the report to the necessity for maintaining immunisation against Diphtheria at a high level. It is gratifying to record that no deaths occurred from respiratory tuberculosis in 1952.

The basis of all public health is still environmental hygiene. In the section of the report dealing with water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, public cleansing, housing, food hygiene, etc., your Sanitary Inspector has given full details relating to these communal services, which are so essential to the maintenance of healthy environmental conditions.

During the course of 1952 the County Medical Officer of Health carried out a survey of the housing and sanitary circumstances of the district. In this report the importance of an efficient system of sewers and sewage disposal works was stressed.

Except for the slow progress made in the provision of better sewerage and sewage disposal facilities the Public Health Committee and the Council may consider that health conditions were generally satisfactory during 1952.

In conclusion, I wish to express to the members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of their support and encouragement.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
R. W. FARQUHAR,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## **SECTION A.**

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA.



## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres) .....	76,099
POPULATION (Census, 1951, Preliminary Figure) .....	7,351
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate Mid/1952) .....	7,282
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931) .....	1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1952) .....	2,162
RATEABLE VALUE .....	£46,251
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE .....	£185,264

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## SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the Inhabitants are:—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Brick Manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

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	Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate) .....	131	64	67
(Illegitimate) .....	2	:	1

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	TOTAL	133	65	68
Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated population, mid/52	Crude:	18.3		
	Adjusted:	20.1		
Still Births .....		1	1	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)		7		
Deaths (Total) .....		71	40	31
Death-Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Crude:	9.8		
	Adjusted:	9.0		

### Maternal Mortality:—

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion .....	1
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....	7.46

### Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

No. of Deaths registered .....	2
--------------------------------	---

### Death Rate:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	15
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	15
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	Nil

### Neo-natal Mortality:—

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age .....	1
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births .....	8

TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1952.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory) .....	—	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.....	1	—	1
Cancer .....	6	3	9
Vascular lesions of Nervous System .....	8	9	17
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	9	8	17
Other Heart Diseases .....	5	6	11
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	2	—	2
Pneumonia .....	—	1	1
Bronchitis .....	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion .....	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	5	—	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	1	1	2
Other Accidents .....	1	—	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>71</b>

**COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1952 AND THE PERIOD 1947-1951.**

	Live births	Deaths (all causes)		Still births	Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality	
		No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n		No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1952	133	18.3*	* 71	9.8*	1	7	1	7.46
,, 1951	121	16.7	101	13.9	1	8	Nil	2
,, 1950	117	15.6	85	11.3	5	41	Nil	25
,, 1949	124	16.7	63	8.5	2	16	Nil	17
,, 1948	126	18.6	84	12.4	3	23	Nil	2
,, 1947	128	18.9	82	12.1	4	30	Nil	17
Average 1947 - 1951 }	—	18.3	—	12.3	—	24	—	6

\* Adjusted ( live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.10) = 20.1.  
           ( death-rate (comparability factor, 0.92) = 9.0.)

## **SECTION B.**

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
OF THE AREA.



## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

### **(a) Laboratory Facilities.**

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Pathology Department at Lancaster Royal Infirmary for bacteriological examination. Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston.

### **(b) Ambulance Facilities.**

The ambulance services for the Area, are controlled by the Lancashire County Council, through the Divisional Health Office at Victoria House, Regent Street.

### **(c) Domiciliary Services.**

The District Nursing and Midwifery Services for the District are provided by the Lancashire County Council, through the Divisional Health Office, at Lancaster.

For the benefit of residents in the Area two district nurse/midwives reside within the district, and where there is need for a home help this can be supplied on application to the Divisional Health Office, Regent Street, Lancaster.

### **(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

The following centres and clinics catering for the area have been established by the Lancashire County Council:—

#### **School Clinics.**

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Thurnham House, Lancaster.

#### **Child Welfare Centres.**

- (1) Village Institute, Hornby.
- (2) The Institute, Caton.
- (3) Market Street, Carnforth.

In July, 1952, arrangements were made by the Divisional Health Committee for a monthly child welfare centre to be held at the Institute, Caton. This centre has been well attended and it is hoped to extend the facilities next year.

### **(e) Hospitals.**

These are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Beaumont Hospital, Slyne Road, Lancaster. General cases are admitted to the Lancaster Royal Infirmary.



## **SECTION C.**

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**



**NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)**  
**CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1952.**

Age Periods - Years.

Diseases	Total CASES	0-	1-	3- .	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—	1	12	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	15	—	3	4	5	2	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	20	1	2	9	4	4	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis (Infective)	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total Cases	54	2	5	14	21	7	1	1	2	1

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Seven new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year:—Five being Pulmonary, comprising four males and one female; whilst two were Non-Pulmonary, both being female sufferers. During the same period only one death occurred from this disease, the lowest figure since 1949.

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Other Forms		Respiratory		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	1

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Since 1947 only one case of diphtheria has been notified in your district, and the disease is now becoming so rare that many young parents do not realise how dangerous it can be. We cannot afford to relax our efforts to maintain a high rate of immunisation against diphtheria, for statistics show that the number of children accepting this valuable protective measure is still well below the number considered necessary to eradicate the disease from the community. The protection rate should be 75% of the child population but in 1952 it was only 31% (approximately) for the country as a whole.

In Health Division No. 2 (which includes Lunesdale Rural District) 68.8% of the children under the age of 15 had at some time before 31st December, 1952, completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria. Considering the under-five child population only, no less than 3,586 out of an estimated total of 8,040 had not been immunised by the end of 1952. The parents of these young children should realise that diphtheria still kills and it is these unprotected children who will contract the disease should they come into contact with it.

Immunisation is a free service available either from the family doctor or through the school clinic, and before a child reaches its first birthday it should receive two injections, with an interval of one month between the two. For full protection a single reinforcing dose at the age of five when entering school is necessary, and, as an added precaution, immunity should be reinforced by a further injection about the age of nine or ten.

The two tables below give detailed figures relating to immunisation, the first for children belonging to Lunesdale Rural District and the second to children within Health Division No. 2.

### Immunisations carried out during the Year Ended 31st December, 1952, in Lunesdale.

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary  
Immunisations during the period.

Age at final injection.					Total under 5 years	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total 5 - 14 years	Total 15 years & over
0 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5					
40	34	11	5	4	94	15	2	17	—

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection,  
i.e., subsequent to complete course.

Age Group.				Total under 15 years	Total 15 years & over
0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14			
12	103	19		134	3

## IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION—

### Health Division No. 2.\*

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1952.

Age at 31st DEC., 1952. i.e. born in Year	0-1 1952	1-2 1951	2-3 1950	3-4 1949	4-5 1948	5-9 1943-47	10-14 1938-42	Total under 15 Years
Number Immunised	496	937	1058	1089	874	5017	5081	14,552
Latest Estimated figure for child population		Children Under 5 yrs. 8040		Children 5-14 years 13,105		Children under 15 years 21,145		
Percentage of Child population in age groups in an immunised state		55.40%		77.05%		68.82%		

\* Health Division No. 2 comprises, Lancaster City, Morecambe and Heysham M.B., Carnforth U.D.C., Lancaster R.D.C., and Lunesdale R.D.C.



**SECTION D.**

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF THE AREA.**



## WATER SUPPLY.

Apart from the remote and high lying farms in the south and east portions of the District, the area is reasonably well served with water from the Council's mains and a good supply is offered to most properties.

The chief sources of supply are obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct which passes through the District from north to south and by agreement, the Council have taken four main connections and one subsidiary off the Aqueduct at suitable points to serve schemes in the following parishes :—

- (1) Regional Scheme serving Arkholme, Whittington, Gressingham, Aughton, Melling, Cantsfield, Tunstall, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington and Tatham.
- (2) Borwick, a separate scheme, which, after serving properties in the Area, passes into the Lancaster Rural District to serve a portion of that Area.
- (3) Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.
- (4) Halton.

The subsidiary connection is brought into use only in times of emergency and serves a part of the Parish of Caton.

The Council has two schemes under their own direct management, one for a portion of the Parishes of Hornby and Wray, known locally as the Hornby Castle Supply and the other serving a part of the Parish of Caton.

The Hornby Castle Supply was purchased by the Council in 1938 from the then Hornby Castle Estate and the water is obtained from an intake on the River Roeburn. Treatment of the water consists of settling tanks, slow sand filtration and chlorination prior to storage. A carbon filter was installed in 1948 for the purpose of dechlorinating the water before distribution and this filter has been found to be most successful in its work.

The Caton scheme was installed as a private supply nearly seventy years ago and was purchased from the Caton Water Company in 1905. Two intakes from a Stream known as Traitor's Gill and one from Tarn Brook are provided and the water passes through a rough gravel filter before being stored in an open reservoir of nearly 1,000,000 gallons capacity. Before distribution the water is chlorinated by means of a Hypo-chlorinator on the main.

Water is also obtained from the Lancaster City mains to provide a piped supply to 73 houses in the District. Of these properties 62 are situated in the Parish of Quernmore and 12 houses are supplied with water before any treatment takes place owing to their

situation above the filter houses. The remaining 11 houses are in the Parish of Halton and receive treated water. No complaints regarding this source of supply have been received.

Four properties in the Parish of Whittington obtain their water from mains connected to the South Westmorland Rural District Council's supply, the water being purchased in bulk by the Council. This scheme was carried out in conjunction with the Agricultural Executive Committee.

A private supply, owned by the Claughton Manor Brick Company Ltd., is piped into about 40 houses in the Parish of Claughton. This water is collected from the hillside, passed through a gravel filter and stored in an open reservoir of approximately 12,000 gallons capacity before being piped direct into the houses. Samples of this water, on bacteriological examination show a wide variation in quality.

Seven houses (including three farms) in the hamlet of Farleton obtain a piped supply from a private source on the hillside above the properties, and here again on bacteriological examination great variation in quality is noticed. A scheme for the extension of the mains on the Hornby Castle Supply has been prepared with a view to incorporating supplies to these latter two parts of the District and I would stress that this work should be proceeded with at the earliest opportunity.

No major extensions to any of the Council's mains were carried out during the year, but it is hoped to provide a piped supply to the remaining properties in the Parish of Cantsfield during the spring of 1953.

Water Supplies to Houses in the District:—

Parish.	From Public Mains.		Private Supplies.	
	Direct to Houses.	Population Served.	No. of Houses.	Population Served.
Arkholme .....	49	152	31	107
Borwick .....	38	115	9	27
Burrow .....	40	113	13	36
Cantsfield .....	9	33	13	48
Caton .....	405	1318	50	164
Claughton .....	—	—	41	107
Gressingham .....	39	104	9	27
Halton .....	304	1062	15	53
Hornby .....	119	371	13	41
Ireby .....	16	67	3	12
Nether Kellet .....	77	266	3	11
Over Kellet .....	91	267	38	126
Leck .....	43	148	14	48
Melling .....	59	221	2	7
Quernmore .....	81	286	92	324
Roeburndale .....	—	—	19	96
Tatham .....	47	175	69	257
Tunstall .....	26	81	2	8
Wennington .....	40	131	4	14
Whittington .....	75	229	22	67
Wray .....	115	518	27	122
Total Whole District .....	1673	5657	489	1702

Samples of water from various sources are forwarded to the Laboratory at the Royal Infirmary, Lancaster, for bacteriological examination, and the results of analysis of the samples submitted during 1952 are set out below :—

Number of samples of raw water submitted .....	25
Number found to be Satisfactory .....	13
Number found to be Unsatisfactory .....	12

Number of samples of treated water submitted .....	27
Number found to be Satisfactory .....	18
Number found to be Unsatisfactory .....	9

Immediate action was taken to ascertain the reason for the nine samples of treated water which were adversely reported upon and it was found that by increasing the chlorine dosage satisfactory results were obtainable upon further submission of samples.

## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

In several of the Annual Reports prepared by my predecessor, Dr. J. A. Tomb, a brief summary has been given relating to the conditions prevailing in various parts of the District on this subject and details are again given below:—

**Arkholme.**—There are no sewers or treatment works provided, but houses, where water closets are installed, have septic tanks. Sink waste drainage is dealt with in some cases by the surface water drains.

**Borwick.**—No sewers or treatment works provided. Drains from several properties are connected to septic tanks.

**Burrow.**—Similar conditions prevail.

**Cantsfield.**—Properties provided with water closets have their own tanks.

**Caton.**—Most of the properties in the village are provided with water closets and an old system of sewerage is provided. Treatment is most unsatisfactorily provided at four separate tanks, but all are seriously overloaded and inadequate to meet present day needs.

**Brookhouse.**—A separate hamlet in Caton Parish, has a sewerage system, the treatment being by settlement and land irrigation. These works are obsolete and the irrigation area inadequate.

**Claughton.**—No sewers are provided and only a few houses with water closets have treatment tanks.

**Gressingham.**—No sewers available. Most houses have privies or pails but those with water closets drain to private tanks.

**Halton.**—This village is sewered and almost every house has a fresh water closet. No treatment works are provided and the sewage discharges direct into the River Lune at two points causing pollution which has given rise to numerous complaints.

**Hornby.**—Sewers are provided in the village but treatment is unsatisfactory with resultant pollution of the river and a stream, the treatment tanks being seriously overloaded and out of date.

**Farleton.**—No sewers or treatment works available.

**Ireby.**—No sewers or treatment works are provided in this hamlet, sink waste drainage from most properties is discharged into the local stream.

**Nether Kellet.** A number of houses are connected to an old surface water sewer which passes through the village and discharges, without treatment, into a small stream. Complaints regarding the pollution of this stream are frequent.

**Over Kellet.**—Similar conditions prevail as mentioned above for Nether Kellet, sewage and sink waste drainage is discharged into two streams passing through the village.

**Leck and Cowan Bridge.**—Properties with water closets have their own tanks but otherwise sink waste drainage ultimately finds its way into a stream.

**Melling with Wrayton.**—Nearly all the properties have water closets and small septic tanks are provided.

**Quernmore.**—There are few groups of houses in this scattered Parish and no sewers are available. Houses with water-borne sanitation have their own tanks.

**Roeburndale.**—Dwelling houses in this Parish are mostly farms and no public sewers are available.

**Tatham.**—A very scattered moorland Parish with no sewers. Septic tanks are provided to deal with individual water closets in the farm properties.

**Tunstall.**—No sewers or disposal plant provided but houses with water closets are served by small tanks.

**Wennington.**—Individual or joint tanks are used for sewage treatment but no sewers are provided.

**Whittington.**—Two tanks are provided at the northern end of the village to deal with sewage passed from an old surface water drain, serving properties in the vicinity, the rest of the property, where water closets are installed, are provided with tanks.

**Wray with Botton.**—Sewers are provided and sewage is treated in tanks, one at each end of the village. These tanks are seriously overloaded and the effluent is the source of complaint from local residents and the Rivers Board.

As will be seen from the above remarks, much remains to be done in the District to deal with the problems arising from the lack of sewers and the inadequacy of the supposed treatment plants. During the year complaints were received from the Rivers Board regarding almost the whole of the effluents from tanks under the Council's control.

Legal action was commenced early in the year by the owner of property in the village of Halton regarding the discharge of crude sewage into the River Lune near his premises. An injunction was obtained against the Council, restraining them from discharging sewage into the River before treating the sewage in such a manner as to render it innocuous, the injunction being suspended for three years. By this action the Council have been compelled to consider the provision of a proper treatment works for the village of Halton in the near future, and plans for this work are being pushed forward as quickly as possible.

Schemes are also prepared for sewerage other villages in the Area, but obstacles to the development of these schemes appear to be chiefly in the acquisition of suitable sites for disposal works, as owners are unwilling to have sewage works adjacent to their property.

### **SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.**

An estimate is given below of the type of sanitary accommodation available at properties in the Area at the end of the year:—

No. of Pail Closets:—	41	No. of Ashbins:—	2,380
No. of Privy Middens:—	790	No. of Closets attached:—	825
No. of Houses on Water		No. of Fresh Water	
Carriage System:—	1,296	Closets:—	1,595

### **Conversions during 1952:—**

No. of privy closets to water closets:—	16
No. of fixed receptacles to moveable ashbins:—	21

It will be appreciated that very little progress can be made in converting the large number of privies to water closets until proper and efficient sewers and treatment works are provided for the various villages. Where conversions have taken place, small septic tanks have been provided, and these have, for the most part, been in connection with houses away from villages and possible sewerage schemes.

### **REFUSE COLLECTION.**

The collection of household refuse is undertaken on a fortnightly basis throughout the major portion of the District, five workmen and two vehicles being employed on this work.

During 1952, records were kept which show that refuse was removed from 47,637 ashbins and 2,841 ashpits were cleansed, the vehicles travelled 16,520 miles on this work. The contents of pails and privies which are also emptied gave rise to a few complaints

during the year as this material is collected during routine work and there is apt to be some spillage from the vehicles when this work is in progress. Reasonable precautions are adopted to eliminate these complaints, but the type of vehicles employed are not designed for removing liquids of this nature.

Disposal of the refuse takes place on two tips in the District, one at Timpenny Quarry Tip in the Parish of Nether Kellet, and the other at Halton. Both these sites are on the Northern side of the River Lune, and owing to the difficulty in obtaining readily accessible and suitable sites for tips in the Area, long hauls are necessary to dispose of refuse collected from premises in the eastern portion of the District.

The collection of waste paper for salvage was continued during the year and 22 tons of this material was disposed of for the sum of £191 6s. 0d. Workmen employed on the refuse collection service are paid a bonus in this connection and the quantity of material so collected has not varied greatly during the past two years since the bonus scheme was put into operation.

## HOUSING.

Since the building programme was recommenced in 1946, the Council have erected new houses in almost every Parish in the District and completed 9 houses and 2 flats during the year. Private building has been as progressive as conditions would permit and 7 new private houses were constructed in 1952. At the end of the year 14 houses were nearing completion on Council housing estates, but there were still 259 applications from persons desirous of obtaining housing accommodation on the Council's waiting list.

The general standard of housing accommodation in the District is reasonably good, the majority of the older houses being constructed of local stone with slate or stone slab roofs but many lack modern amenities such as baths and hot water supplies. Where this type of property is owner-occupied these amenities are gradually being provided but whilst the cost of providing these modern facilities remain at their present level many owner-occupiers find it difficult to finance such works. Properties occupied on a rental basis also lack these amenities but this is not to be wondered at when it is realised that tenants in the District are occupying property let at 3/6 per week in some cases.

The improvement of property is, without doubt, also being retarded by the absence of adequate sewage facilities in the majority of the villages and owners are unable to provide baths and w.c.'s due to this fact.

Numerous enquiries have been received and consultations have taken place with owners of property desirous of taking advantage of the provision of the Housing Act, 1949, relating to improvement grants. Various difficulties have arisen but three applications for grant aid were received during the year in respect of three houses. These applications received the approval of the Council and were forwarded to the Ministry for approval with the result that at the end of the year the works required to one cottage had been completed. Much more publicity could well be given to this matter and many houses in the area could be brought up to modern standards, so relieving the Council of the burden of new house building in many cases.

Only two known cases of overcrowding were recorded at the end of the year, involving three families and 20 persons and these will be dealt with when Council houses are available.

### **INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.**

No. of premises inspected during the year .....	81
No. of visits made for the purpose .....	153
No. inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations .....	58
No. of inspections made for the purpose .....	80
No. of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit .....	53
No. of premises rendered fit by informal action .....	51
No. of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	3
No. of houses Demolished .....	3

### **INSPECTION OF SHOPS.**

Almost all the shops in the District are small semi-domestic businesses, very few having employees outside the proprietors' domestic circle. 41 premises of this nature are situated in the Area and these are visited at least twice each year. No action has been found to be necessary for infringements of the Shops Act or Public Health Act during the year.

### **MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.**

There are no slaughterhouses in use in the Area, the meat consumed in the District being obtained from the Lancaster Central Slaughterhouse where the animals are slaughtered and inspected by the Lancaster City Staff. A small amount is also brought into the District from the Kendal Slaughterhouse. Complaints regarding the quality and condition of the meat are very rarely received and local meat traders are very co-operative when such an occasion arises.

Other premises where food is prepared are visited and Shopkeepers in particular are to be relied upon to call in assistance when any suspected foodstuffs are delivered to their premises. This action is appreciated.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

The supervision of the production of milk, other than the inspection of retail producers is under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Most of the milk sold in the Area is provided by producers who are also wholesalers, and it is pleasing to note that the bulk of milk supplied to consumers in the District is now bottled and sold from farms with either Accredited or T.T. herds. Two retailers are registered with the Council for the sale of T.T. Pasteurised Milk, the supply being obtained from Dairies outside the District.

Milk supplied to schools in the District is obtained, either from local farmers, near the School, who produce T.T. Milk, or from dairies outside the Area supplying heat treated milk. Samples are regularly obtained by the staff of the County Health Department and few complaints are received as to quality or treatment.

## **RODENT CONTROL.**

Since the coming into operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, in March, 1950, the Council have been responsible for its operation and three of the employees of the Council have been trained in this service and work on a part time basis. These workmen are released from other duties when the occasion arises and carry out treatments to premises where necessary. Set out below are details of the work carried out and it is pleasing to report that it has not been found necessary to issue any notices for the carrying out of any work under the Act.

The Agricultural Executive Committee carry out contract work for many farmers in the District under their powers in this connection and the Council endeavour to work alongside the Committee where necessary to rid premises of infestation.

Regular routine visits are paid to the refuse tips in the Area and no complaints regarding the presence of vermin on any of these sites have been received during the year.

The sewers in the District are treated twice each year in accordance with the Ministry recommendations and the figures set out below give details of the work carried out in this respect:—

Total number of manholes baited .....	78
No. of manholes showing prebait take .....	38
No. of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days) .....	17
No. of manholes showing complete poison take .....	6
No. of manholes showing part poison take .....	24

### FACTORY ACT, 1937.

There were 52 premises of this nature on the register at the end of the year and visits have been made on 61 occasions during the past twelve months.

Very little complaint can be made regarding the condition of these works and during the year one proprietor was requested to clean down his premises and another informed that the sanitary accommodation required attention. Both these matters were remedied with very little delay.



